

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) In a ball component for a ball and socket joint for a water conduit, comprising a ball, a collar ~~integral~~ integrally formed with said ball and a passage extending through said ball and collar, the improvement being that said ball and collar are made of plastics material and said ball component further includes a skirt that surrounds and is held on to said collar.
2. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 1, wherein said collar and said skirt each has an outer face having a surface finish and the surface finish of said collar is different to the surface finish of said skirt.
3. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 1 wherein said collar, includes a coupling for connecting said ball component to another plumbing component.
- 4 (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 3, wherein said coupling is a screw thread.
5. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 1, which further includes a connector for joining said collar and said skirt together,
6. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 5, wherein said connector comprises a protrusion provided on said collar that engages said skirt when said skirt has been placed around said collar.
7. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 6, wherein said connector is a snap connector.
8. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 5, wherein said connector comprises a protrusion provided on said skirt and a corresponding recess in said collar such that said

protrusion and said recess engage with each other when said skirt has been placed around said collar.

9. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 8, wherein said connector is a snap connector.

10. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 1, which includes an engagement between said collar and said skirt, the engagement comprising at least one rib provided on one of said collar and said skirt and at least one groove for engaging said at least one rib provided on the other of said collar and said skirt.

11. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 1, wherein said skirt is made of metal.

12. (Original) A ball component as claimed in claim 11, wherein said metallic skirt is electroplated.

13. (Original) A ball and socket joint for a directable water conduit that comprises

- a) a ball component comprising:
 - a ball,
 - a collar integral with said ball
 - a passage extending through said ball and collar, and
 - a skirt that surrounds and is held on to said collarwherein said ball and collar are made of plastics material and
- b) a socket in which said ball is seated.

14. (Original) A directable water conduit that comprises

- a) a ball component that comprising:
 - a ball,
 - a collar integral with said ball,
 - a passage extending through ball and collar,

a skirt that surrounds and is held on said collar,
wherein said ball and collar are made of plastics material,

- b) a socket in which said ball is seated, and
- c) a water outlet device connected to said socket.

15. (Original) A directable water conduit as claimed in claim 14, wherein said water outlet device is a showerhead.